



Saguaro National Park (West) Naturalist Program Schedule



Programs meet at the Red Hills Visitor Center,
2700 N. Kinney Road, and last 30 to 45 minutes, unless noted otherwise. Program
schedules are subject to change. Call the visitor center at (520) 733-5158 for updates or to
make **RESERVATIONS**.

Program Descriptions follow schedule.

** Wheelchair Accessible*

December 23 – December 30, 2007

Sunday, Dec. 23	10:45 a.m.	A Hohokam Woman's Day – <i>Patio Talk*</i>
	11:45 a.m.	Rattlers - <i>Patio Talk*</i>
	2:15 p.m.	Snakes, Lizards and Tortoises - <i>Patio Talk*</i>
Monday, Dec. 24	10:45 a.m.	A Hohokam Woman's Day – <i>Garden Walk*</i>
	2:15 p.m.	Snakes, Lizards and Tortoises - <i>Patio Talk*</i>
Tuesday, Dec. 25	MERRY CHRISTMAS! <i>We are closed.</i> <i>Sure hope to see you soon.</i>	
Wednesday, Dec. 26	10:45 a.m.	They Are Mining In Our National Park - <i>Slideshow *</i>
	2:15 p.m.	Those Who came Before*- <i>Patio Talk*</i>
Thursday, Dec. 27	2:15 p.m.	Geology - <i>Patio Talk*</i>
	3:15 p.m.	Life – <i>Short Walk</i>
Friday, Dec. 28	11:45 a.m.	Rattlers - <i>Patio Talk*</i>
	2:15 p.m.	Romance in the Desert - <i>Patio Talk*</i>
Saturday, Dec. 29	10:45 a.m.	A Hohokam Woman's Day – <i>Garden Walk*</i>
	2:15 p.m.	Snakes, Lizards and Tortoises - <i>Patio Talk*</i>
Sunday, Dec. 30	10:45 a.m.	A Hohokam Woman's Day – <i>Patio Talk*</i>
	11:45 a.m.	Rattlers - <i>Patio Talk*</i>
	1:15 p.m.	Thelma's World: Meet the Desert Tortoise – <i>Talk & Short Walk</i>
	3:15 p.m.	Thelma's World: Meet the Desert Tortoise – <i>Talk & Short Walk</i>

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***Adaptation: Recipe for Survival:** Take a 30 minute, 100 yard walk in our Cactus Garden Walk to discover some physical and behavioral adaptations of desert plants.

Birds of Saguaro National Park: Join an experienced birding guide to see some of the 25 species of birds that are year-round residents of the Park. You may also see some migrants still in the area as they move to their summer haunts. This 2 mile, 3 hour walk will also help you identify some wildflowers.

***Day in the Life of a Hohokam Woman:** Take a 40 minute, 100 yard walk in our Cactus Garden Walk to discover how a Hohokam Woman may have used the plants for medicinal solutions and food for her family.

Desert Sojourn: Come along on a one hour, ½ mile stroll at the “old water hole” where you will find out why this human perceived “harsh” environment is “Heaven on earth” for animals and plants.

***Geology of the Tucson Mountains:** This 25 minute patio program explores how the Tucson Mountains came to be where they are now, their composition and forces that built and continue to shape them.

***God’s Dog & Desert “Pigs”** An introduction to two of our most common desert mammals: the coyote and the javalina.

***Life Cycle of the Saguaro: Seed to Giant:** A 49 minute, 100 yard walk and presentation on some astonishing reasons why so few Saguaro seeds make it to fruition.

Messages from the Past: Come along on a ½ mile leisurely 1 ½ hour walk to Signal Hill to view and enjoy evidence that the people of the past have left behind.

Moon Take Night Make Day: This gentle, relatively flat 3 hour, 2 ½ mile hike up a desert wash is during the transition from day to night. Enjoy the sunset and stroll in the moonlit desert. ***RESERVATION REQUIRED call 520 733-5158***

***Moonrise over the Mountain:** This campfire talk on the patio of the Red Hills Visitor Center allows a relaxing view of the full moon as it rises above the cactus forest. Please bring a lawn chair and warm clothing (even a blanket) for this 45 minute talk.

***Rattlers!:** Join a Park Naturalist for approximately 30 minutes to explore the life and lore, myths and misunderstandings concerning one of the desert Southwest’s most intriguing icons.

***Romance in the Desert:** The desert is a place that can tug at your heart strings. While you are here, you can engage all your senses in the romance of the desert. Meet the romantic desert characters like the jousting knight and the suitor with the Stradivarius. Romance in the desert is more than just a state of mind.

Signs of Life in the Desert: A 30 minute, ½ mile walk around the Red Hills Visitors’ Center to look for evidence of animal life.

***Snakes, Lizards and Tortoises:** A 40 minutes patio presentation on communication skills, special adaptations and defense systems of these often misunderstood creatures. A little bit of folk lore is also shared.

Sunset Hike: This 3 ½ to 4 hour, 3 ½ mile round trip hike that climbs 700 feet to a ridgeline for the sunset and then returns under the moonlight. ***RESERVATION REQUIRED call 520 733-5158***

“Thelma”, the Desert Tortoise: Spy on the tortoise’s private life and learn to track them with radiotelemetry.

***Those Who Came Before:** A 40 minute patio presentation on the Hohokam (those who are gone), who inhabited this area from A.D. 300 to A.D. 1450.

Twilight Hikes: 1.8 to 2.4 miles long (depending on leader and the group) and takes about 2 to 2 ½ hours. The terrain is sandy, with some rock outcroppings. The meeting point is the trail head of King Canyon. It continues up the wash to point where it joins the main trail (a slightly rocky old mining road) and returns either via the main trail or by an alternate trail that loops back around to the parking area. Occasional stops for interpretation of natural, cultural and historical subjects. ***RESERVATION REQUIRED call 520 733-5158***